

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A linking information making device comprising:
 - a service list acquisition unit which acquires a service list expressing respective services which execute predetermined processing of document data;
 - an interface information acquisition unit which individually acquires pieces of interface information from service processing devices respectively providing the services expressed in the service list which has been acquired by the service list acquisition unit; and
 - a linking information making unit which makes linking information to link services provided by the respective service processing devices, based on the interface information which has been acquired by the interface information acquisition unit.
2. A linking information making method comprising:
 - a service list acquisition step at which a service list expressing respective services, which execute predetermined processing of document data, is acquired;
 - an interface information acquisition step at which pieces of interface information are individually acquired from service processing devices respectively providing the services expressed in the service list which has been acquired at the service list acquisition step; and

a linking information making step at which linking information to link services provided by the respective service processing devices is made, based on the interface information which has been acquired at the interface information acquisition step.

3. A recording medium having recorded a linking information making program, wherein by the program:

a service list expressing respective services which execute predetermined processing of document data is acquired; interface information is individually acquired from service processing devices respectively providing the services expressed in the acquired service list; and

processing, which makes linking information to link services provided by the respective service processing devices, based on the acquired interface information, is executed.

4. A document processing system comprising:

a plurality of service processing devices which provide services for executing predetermined processing of document data and transmit pieces of service information at any time;

a search device provided with: a service information storage unit for storing the pieces of service information which have been transmitted at any time from currently-available service processing devices; a search unit for searching services corresponding to services, for which search has been requested, using the pieces of service information which have

been stored in the service information storage unit; and a transmission unit which transmits a service list based on the search results of the search unit; and

the linking information making device according to claim 1 which acquires the service list transmitted from the search device.

5. A document processing system according to claim 4, wherein the transmission unit of the search device transmit the service list expressing services which are services provided by currently-available service processing devices and correspond to services for which search has been requested, to the linking information making device.

6. A document processing system according to claim 4, wherein the service processing devices transmit pieces of input information and pieces of output information on services, service names, and service information location as service information.

7. A document processing system according to claim 4, wherein the interface information acquisition unit of the linking information making device acquires pieces of service information location for accessing the respective service processing devices, from the search device, and acquires pieces of interface information from the service processing devices based on pieces of the acquired service information location.

8. A document processing system according to claim 4,

further comprising a service linking processing device which executes linking processing of services provided by the respective service processing devices, based on the linking information made by the linking information making device.

9. A linking information making device comprising:

an input device which inputs a service list expressing respective services which execute predetermined processing of document data; and

a controller which extracts pieces of port information of respective services from the service list input from the input device, acquires pieces of interface information by accessing service processing devices based on the pieces of extracted port information, and makes linking information for linking services provided by the respective service processing devices, based on the pieces of acquired interface information.

10. A search device comprising:

a memory storing pieces of service information which are transmitted at any time from currently-available service processing devices;

a controller which searches services corresponding to services for which search has been requested, using pieces of service information stored in the memory, and makes a service list expressing services, for which search has been requested, and pieces of port information, based on the search result; and

an output device which outputs the service list made by

the controller.

11. A document processing system comprising:

a plurality of service processing devices which store interface information and transmit service information at any time;

the search device according to claim 10; and

the linking information making device according to claim

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12. A document processing system according to claim 11, wherein the service processing devices transmit at least pieces of port information of services and service outlines as the service information.

13. A document processing system according to claim 11, further comprising a service linking processing device which executes linking processing of services provided by the respective service processing devices, based on the linking information made by the linking information making device.